



Volume 4 Issue 5

March 30, 2007



A Note from the Battalion Commander

LTC John O. Edborg

Folks,

I can't believe the New year past almost 90 days ago. Time is really flying! That happens when things are real busy. After reading the company commanders' letters it confirms what I already knew...we are busier than ever. In the past three months, we said goodbye to the three EN DETs (Canine) as they went over to the 5th EN BN. We also said goodbye to CSM Westover who now is working with the 94th EN BN. But, we were very fortunate to have CSM Naime, his wife Maricella, and two sons, Adib, Samir and daughter, Gabriela, join us. They are a great team and started to make a difference the first day they arrived. Make sure you take the time to make them all feel welcome. To all the Officers, NCOS and enlisted Soldiers, CSM Naime is here for you and will work with you if you need his help.

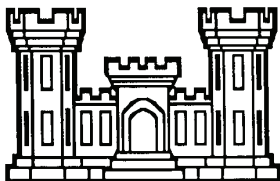
Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>Chaplain's Corner</i> | 4 |
| <i>HHC</i> | 4 |
| <i>Engineer Detection (K9) Detachment</i> | 5 |
| <i>Sappers Clear the Way</i> | 5 |
| <i>Alpha Company</i> | 6 |
| <i>Bravo Company</i> | 6 |
| <i>Charlie Company</i> | 7 |
| <i>Delta Company</i> | 7 |
| <i>Pictures</i> | 8 |

I know you have much angst about the possible changes that will be coming. I can tell you nothing is final yet. I figure it is best to wait and let you know what is going on after the dust settles. I also know there is angst about the Battalion possibly moving. This too is not final, so my advice to you is worry about it when and if it comes. Finally, I know many are concerned about things like "instructor pooling." All I can tell you is we must be the most efficient organization possible to train our Soldiers to the best of our ability. This could mean that we don't really have to change much. It could mean we will have to change a lot. We will staff this and allow the companies to provide feedback.

My goal for the next few months is to set the Battalion up for success in the near future and long term (two years out). I can only do this with everyone's, patience, understanding and commitment to ensuring we reach our goals. I am proud of each and everyone one of you and know that you will continue to support the regiment and our Nation in true Iron Soldier fashion!

LTC E



Chaplain's Corner

SPC Courtney Hickman

Greetings Iron Soldier, once again this was a very productive quarter for the Chaplain side of the house. As many of you may know we as a battalion finally have our own personal Chaplain! I think I speak for everyone when I issue a big heart felt welcome to CH (CPT) Robert Miller. Upon his arrival we have already completed a Cadre Meal for the Sappers this past graduation. Also be of the look out for the next upcoming Building Strong Bonds (BSB) Marriage Training coming in May! May God continue to bless and keep you.

God Bless

SPC Hickman 6-0890

577th EN BN Chaplain Asst.

"Do you exist, or do you Live?"



HHC

CPT Grant Sketo

HHC will be going through some organizational changes coming up this April. The Most Efficient Organization will fall underneath the HHC umbrella. We are getting ready for the transition by conducting inventories, in processing, and a right seat ride with A CO. I am looking forward to serving with the MEO and I hope that the transition will be smooth.

The company has been hard at work preparing to conduct the Best Sapper Competition. The competition will be from 1-4May and be even harder than last year. The Sappers instructors continue to be challenged. As they prepare for competition, they still teach sapper students along the way. I wanted thank everyone who is helping out with the competition and making it a world class event.

I wanted to congratulate all of our SSGs who made the SFC list: SSG Lieker, SSG Castleberry, SSG Barker, and SSG Bascomb. More congrats for SSG Bascomb and SFC Irvin as they both were selected to attend OCS this fall.

In conclusion, please remember to start preparing for the summer heat. Take the extra time to thoroughly

plan your holiday travel this spring. I want to ask that each one of you conduct risk assessments before you conduct any off duty activity like hunting or boating. It is imperative that everyone conduct themselves in a safe manner and return back to work. Thank you for all you and your families sacrifice on a daily basis.



Mrs. Mallet receiving her PCS award



A Co. receiving TRADOC Maintenance Award



BN formation for Change of Responsibility

Alpha Company

CPT Jason Barnes

Greetings to all Ordnance Soldiers and those who dream to be Ordnance Soldiers! The 1SG and I continue to ride the train. It is a great ride!

The Most Efficient Organization continues to prove their worth as highly capable maintainers. Through the rough weather and tough times, the MEO still managed to keep the BN ready to do it's mission and also to support Post missions. The individuals who volunteered to work overtime out in the cold and ice conditions deserve distinct recognition.

The Maintenance Training Division continues to work hard to make the course as current as possible. We are currently undergoing a course review for every course. While this is a true endeavor, it will continue to make our courses the best the Ordnance Corps has to offer!

This last quarter has left our Family Readiness Group looking for some new leadership. I would like to take this opportunity to personally say good bye to Mrs. Wilbanks. For the past year or so she has been the FRG leader and did an incredible work. She was truly the driving force behind everything that we did and I cannot say enough about her. I'm glad that I had the opportunity to work with her.

I am ecstatic to say that we have yet another addition to the Ordnance Regiment. Please everyone congratulate and give a pat on the back to SSG Strayhorn for the birth of his first son, Jackson. He is a wonderful boy, born on the 25th of January. Yes, it is now three newsletters in a row that we have had another birth in the company. I don't know what to say, except the Ordnance

Soldiers know how to party!

As you can see below, we've really had quite a turn over this past quarter. While it is great to see all the new faces, it is difficult to let others go. I wish you well at your new units. On line, on time.

Hails:

SSG Wood

SFC Deane-Downing

SFC Allen

Mr. Hausmann

Mr. Bienusa

SSG Jenkins

Hate to See you Go, but Go :

Mr. Rosario

SSG Foley

SSG Sweeney

SSG Wilbanks

"Tater



Jackson Strayhorn born 25 Jan 07

Bravo Company

CPT Christopher Sawfer

B/577

As Spring is starting to reveal itself to us a day at a time, after such a long and painful Winter, the Backbone of the Regiment continues to train in an ever changing environment. As the Army reconfigures itself, several changes will take place within the company over the next few months that will maximize efficiency and effort. The Soldiers that are trained by B/577 will become a permanent edition to the Backbone family, constituting the majority of the reconfiguration with a few other administrative adjustments taking place as well. I have full confidence that the NCO's, Soldiers, men, and women of B/577 will remain flexible during this period of change. So don't forget to eat your rubber bands for breakfast!

Throughout the last few weeks, Staff Sergeant Edward Rojas was promoted to SFC, SGT Bryan Marshall was promoted to SSG, and Specialists Thomas Dunkle and Brandon Ritte were promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Congrats to all, you definitely deserve it. Seeing a Soldier deservingly get promoted is one of my favorite things to witness in the Military, right next to re-enlistments.

Additionally, I would like to welcome the following individuals to the Backbone of the 577th Engineer Battalion; SSGs Klunder, Minter, Lepine, Lindt, Miles, Sampay; SGTs Silva, Martin, Espinoza, Schmudlach, Caetano, Bledsoe, Ganske, and Free; and Specialists Wilson, Hathaway, Kean, Dutton, and Hart

I want you to know that, as the commander, my top three concerns are:

Training the Soldiers. These young men and women signed up to serve this country during a time of war, a situation much different then when we all joined. It is very important that we give them our best.

Professional development while assigned to B/577. Utilize the set schedule you have here in B Co to execute as much supplemental schooling as possible. We all know how hectic and demanding the optempo is in the units we came from and will shortly return to.

Maximize time with your families. It is imperative that you manage your time wisely in order to accomplish your work during set duty hours. As a new father myself, I understand how important it is, to not waste the time we could be with our loved ones.

I wanted to take this opportunity to address the group of NCO's that have been chosen and/or volunteered to join the 94th Engineer Battalion here on Fort Leonard Wood. It is common knowledge that this unit will be deploying shortly in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. To SFC's Thomas Bayle, Lionel Robins, and Brian Roberts: You have been three of the most reliable, professional, and easy-to-work-with, Non Commissioned Officers I have ever had the pleasure of serving with. To SSG's John Collins, Maurice Powell, James Rice, Jason Pickett, Marven McCummings, Ray Blash, David Sullivan, Terry Ellis, and SGT Trent Packer, your departure is really going to take a toll on Bravo Company and I will keep you and your families in my prayers. I have the greatest confidence that you are exactly what the 94th Engineer Battalion needs. I know that you will serve that unit to the best of your abilities, just as you have in this one.



Charlie Company

CPT John Zacharias

The second quarter has been a high paced quarter for Charlie Company. EXODUS serves as a good time to rest and recharge the batteries for another year of intense training. The validations of the new POI are complete and it would have not been possible without the tremendous efforts of the instructors and personnel in CED. Their effort will improve the Army overall by producing better Soldiers. In addition, to the POI the company is supporting the Global war on terrorism by training up multiple units to deploy and perform their combat mission. This is a crucial element of a unit's preparation and these instructors' efforts can not be overlooked.

The company had several promotions this month: SSG Scott, SSG Devere, SGT Curry, SPC Roischneider, SPC Wright, and SPC Lilly. In addition to promotions SGT Hillard is still competing in the NCO of the quarter competition and he has won post and he is currently competing at TRADOC level. Congratulations go out to all these Soldiers for their hard work and effort.

The company will hold its Easter party in April. A Barbecue fund raiser will be on 8 March to support the event. Anyone interested in helping with the event can contact me at john.zacharias@wood.army.mil or zachariasj1974@yahoo.com. To all the families and soldiers thank you for all your hard work and support.

Delta Company

CPT Rob Newbauer

Delta Company rang in the new year with a bang. After a nice EXODUS leave for the staff, members returned to work energized to start Engineer Diver Training again. We welcomed in a new Second Class Diver Course, one of our largest in recent times. It will only be a matter of time before these young soldiers graduate and display their Dive badges proudly.

In addition to the training, the company learned news that one of our most dedicated instructors, SSG Mark Lubin came out on the E7 list. Congrats to soon to be SFC Lubin and his family, this is well deserved.

The weather in Florida still continues to treat us well. As the temperature begins to rise, we will turn our focus to the ever important Master Diver Evaluations. This training event is the pinnacle evaluation portion of a 21D's career. This year we are welcoming in two candidates this year. SFC Chebatah and SFC Vaughn. Good luck to both in the upcoming weeks as they strive for the coveted Master Diver pin.

The company also held its Spring FRG get-together at the Baumgartner's house. Although spring comes a little earlier in Florida, we did not hesitate to take the opportunity to get together as a company.

As the summer approaches, I want to thank all the soldiers and family members of Delta Company. Without their hard work and dedication to our profession we would not be able to do what we do. I hope the continuing months treat us well and I look forward to serving this wonderful company as well.



Iron Soldier Pictures



A Co. team members receiving awards at the Civilian appreciation lunch



CSM Naime officially assumes responsibility



Winning sports teams presenting trophies



Soldiers receiving recognition at the BN Promotion Ceremony

577th Web

Mrs. Laura Richardson & SSG Jason Clemens

